

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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22

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-07 COME-00 /089 W

----- 005095

R 260450Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7364

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 2769

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, MILI, PINS, SOPN, ECON, LA, FR, SZ

SUBJECT: LAO ASK FRENCH MILATT, JOURNALIST, SWISS BUSINESSMAN  
TO LEAVE

REF VIENTIANE 2766

1. FRENCH INFORM US THAT AFTER FOREIGN MINISTRY CHEF DE CABINET SOUBANH SRITHIRATH ON NOVEMBER 22 TOLD FRENCH MILITARY ATTACHE DURAND HE COULD REMAIN IN LAOS UNTIL DECEMBER 8, SOUBANH CALLED IN FRENCH AMBASSADOR NOVEMBER 24 TO TELL HIM THAT FRENCH ATTACHE PERSONNEL HAD TO LEAVE BY NOVEMBER 28. THEY INTEND TO DO SO.

2. AFP REPRESENTATIVE JEAN-CLAUDE FIOL TELLS US THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION ALSO TOLD HIM HE WOULD HAVE TO CLOSE AFP OFFICE AND LEAVE, WHICH BEING REPORTED SEPTEL.

3. LAO HAVE ALSO REPORTEDLY ASKED SWISS BUSINESSMAN CLO-DURI  
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BARBLAN TO LEAVE.

4. COMMENT: THIS FIRST INSTANCE WE HAVE NOTICED OF SOUBANH, WHO WIELDS CONSIDERABLE POWER IN FOREIGN MINISTRY, HAVING TO REVERSE A DECISION. WE PRESUME MINISTRY OF DEFENSE (OR INTERIOR) MAY HAVE PUSHED FOR EARLY DEPARTURE OF DURAND AND DIFFERENCE WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY WAS RESOLVED AT HIGHEST LEVELS OF PARTY.

5. TIMING OF REQUEST FOR BARBLAN'S DEPARTURE INTERESTING SINCE SWISS AMBASSADOR RESIDENT IN HANOI AND ACCREDITED TO LPDR HAPPENED TO BE IN VIENTIANE FOR FIRST TIME IN ABOUT A MONTH. BEFORE LEARNING ABOUT BARBLAN'S DEPARTURE, HE LAMENTED FACT THAT HE UNABLE TO GET APPOINTMENTS WITH SENIOR LPDR OFFICIALS EXCEPT FOREIGN MINISTER.  
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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CLOSURE OF OFFICES, MILITARY ATTACHES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 NOV 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CollinP0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1976VIENTI02769  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Reference:** 76 VIENTIANE 2766  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CollinP0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 29 APR 2004  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** LAO ASK FRENCH MILATT, JOURNALIST, SWISS BUSINESSMAN TO LEAVE  
**TAGS:** PDIP, MILI, PINS, SOPN, ECON, LA, FR, SZ  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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